

Guiding Your Young Children



Parents use different styles to interact with their children. Researcher Diana Baumrind has spent years studying parents and children. She describes four ways that parents interact with children. Take the short quiz below to learn about your parenting style. Circle the numbers of at least five statements below that are most like you.

1. I would rather have no rules than to worry about breaking them.
2. Children should obey their parents and not talk back.
3. Kids are too hard to figure out. It tires me to try.
4. Children can get along pretty well if you just leave them alone.
5. Children should be given choices.
6. My work and home responsibilities are too stressful; I can't worry about what the children are doing.
7. I was spanked when I was a child, and I turned out okay.
8. My children can get themselves up and put themselves to bed. They have little need for me.
9. The children won't listen to me, so I have quit trying.
10. Sometimes when children talk, they make good points so I try to listen to them.
11. My children should do as I say until they are old enough to make their own decisions.
12. Although it takes hard work, parents and children should try to talk about their feelings to make family decisions.
13. When my children don't mind me, I yell at them and threaten them with punishment.
14. I am not good at parenting. It is easier to let my ex- take care of the kids and for me not see them.
15. Children should be allowed to be individuals.
16. Children should realize that my work is stressful and that I am tired at the end of the day.
17. Video games are a lifesaver. They keep the children out of my way.
18. I expect my children to conform to my decisions without discussion.
19. I do not criticize my children or call them names even when I can't understand why they act as they do.
20. My parents are better with the children. If they watch them, I can go out with my friends and I am happier.

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TRANSFER THE NUMBERS OF THE ITEMS YOU CHECKED TO THE NEXT PAGE.